



# COVID-19

## YOUTH ACTION SQUAD



### ABBYGAIL BROWN (SHE/HER)

Abby Brown is a freshman at JW Reed Christian Academy from Polk County. Abby is a hard worker and does her best with anything she puts her mind to. She is a determined, persistent, reliable and trustworthy person.



### AIDEN ELLIS (HE/HIM)

Aiden Ellis is a freshman at Roosevelt High School from Polk County.



### ALLISON WALKER (SHE/HER)

Allison Walker is a senior at Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School from Mahaska County. She has been involved in many programs relating to her interests in politics and media. Allison was a page in the House of Representatives at the Iowa State Capitol in 2020. She is so excited to get another perspective of government through the Youth Action Squads. She loves being an Iowan and is very fortunate to be a member of this group of young Iowans. Allison is proud to advocate and help represent young Iowans dealing with this pandemic.

Image coming soon

### ANTONIO CROSS (HE/HIM)

Antonio Cross is a sophomore at Johnston High School from Polk County. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family. Antonio has two dogs that he likes playing with. He also enjoys watching anime, playing video games and making YouTube videos.



### BRENDA KOUMONDJI (SHE/HER)

Brenda Koumondji is a junior at Cedar Falls High School from Black Hawk County. She was born in Cameroon (Africa) and moved to the United States in 2016, moving directly from Cameroon to Iowa. She is bilingual, speaking French and English. She enjoys reading and music.



### CARTER WAGLER STEWART (HE/HIM)

Carter is a freshman at Roosevelt High School from Polk County. He enjoys playing basketball, video games, and loves getting involved in the community. Carter also takes pride in his academics.



## CLOWEY TYLER (SHE/HER)

Clowey Tyler is a sophomore at North High School from Polk County. She is in the North Speech and Debate Club. Clowey enjoys art, music and watching YouTube. She is happy to be a member of the Youth Action Squad, because she wants to help people stay safe starting in Iowa.



## SARAGRACE LAMB (SHE/HER)

SarahGrace Lamb is a sophomore at Roosevelt High School and Central Academy from Polk County. She strives to contribute to her community with a special interest in human welfare. With a Harvard course centered on child protection as a part of her curricula, SaraGrace is already taking large steps to achieve her goals. COVID-19 has affected her lifestyle dramatically; living with her grandparents has shown SaraGrace just how harmful the effects of an illness with no vaccine can be.



## MY DUYEN PAVEY (SHE/HER)

My Duyen is in 10th grade at Pleasant Valley High School and lives in LeClaire, IA. She is passionate about policies, history and government. She hopes to learn more about advocating for her beliefs and how to be a better leader. She is excited to work with the Department of Human Rights.



## ELLE FITZGERALD (SHE/HER)

Elle Fitzgerald graduated from The University of Northern Iowa with a degree in social work and is currently working on a degree in paralegal studies. Elle is from Polk County. Elle currently works at Community Support Advocates as an Integrated Service Coordinator, where she works with transition aged youth in support of gaining life skills as well as mental health recovery. In her free time, Elle likes to spend time with her dog, cook, and read historical fiction. Elle has a passion for working toward inclusivity and raising mental health awareness.



## ETHAN HUGHES (HE/HIM)

Ethan Hughes is a Senior at Cedar Falls High School from Black Hawk County. After high school, he plans to attend college for computer and environmental science. In his freetime, he enjoys fishing, reading and video games.



## FARIJI MAPENDO (HE/HIM)

Fariji Mapendo is in 10th grade at Lincoln High School from Polk County. He loves sports and plays soccer for Genesis Youth Foundation. His favorite position in soccer is defender. He is self-described as a cool and calm kid at his high school. He loves getting to know new friends and new people in school and especially loves people who love and care about him.



## GRACE NELSON (SHE/HER)

Grace Nelson is a 15 year old student from Bishop Heelan Catholic High School in Sioux City. She is a hard worker and is passionate about learning new things and bettering herself in all aspects of her life. She is a four-sport athlete and especially loves volleyball and hopes to play in college someday. She joined the YAS to learn more about government and to get involved in the community as well as share her experiences on how COVID-19 has personally affected her life.



## JESSENIA BURTON (SHE/HER)

Jessenia Burton is currently in her final year of high school. During her high school experience, she was a cheerleader for 3 years and was involved in National Honor Society and Scarlett Squad. She also went to the Young Woman's Recourse Center (YWRC) for the after school group. There, she was recognized for being a great leader by the United Way. Jessenia is now part of the Youth Action Squad (YAS). She is excited to be in a position to learn more about being an amazing leader and develop more skills from being a part of this group.



## JULIA MANYAME (SHE/HER)

Julia is a junior at Johnston High School in Johnston, IA. She is in student council, C.O.R.E., and M.F.O.L. She loves to play the piano, make art and take care of animals. She also loves to advocate and wants her voice to be heard. She has experienced and witnessed the effects of COVID-19 and racism and wants to make a change, which is why she joined the Youth Action Squad.



## JULIE CAGNARD (SHE/HER)

Julie is a senior at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa. She leads an environment club, as well as her school's Democrat Club in hopes to major in Environmental Sustainability and Political Science at a 4-year university in the future. In Julie's free time, she enjoys running with her cross country team and volunteering as a writing tutor and at the local hospital. She hopes to continue her journey in helping others and is ready to advocate for change in Iowa.



## KAYLA JABRE (SHE/HER)

Kayla Jabre is a Kansas-born United State and Canadian citizen born to a Lebanese father and Taiwanese mother. She is a current sophomore at Bishop Heelan High School in Sioux City and participates in swimming, piano and oboe in her free time. The unusual year of 2020 made Kayla realize that she should not take life for granted and to take this time to fully understand the issues and situations that come along with 2020 in hopes to live a brighter future. Kayla also finds eating noodles and chocolate the cure to a stressful day.



## MARWA ABDALLA (SHE/HER)

Marwa Abdalla is currently attending DMACC for their nursing program. Marwa is from Des Moines, IIA where she is also a Patient Care Technician and Child Care Associate. Marwa values justice, human rights, and altruism. Her goal in life is to make a path for the youth who come after her as well as make an impact in life.



## MEGHAN ANDRESEN (SHE/HER)

Meghan Andresen is currently a daycare teacher in Dubuque, IA. She loves to be an active part of her community in any way she can. Meghan has been apart of Iowa AMP since she was in high school. She enjoys speaking out about what she believes in and being a voice for those who aren't heard. She joined the COVID Action Squad so she could continue to be a voice for others.



## MIRA KEERAN (SHE/HER)

Mira Keeran is an 11th grader at Cedar Falls High School. She is so excited to be part of the COVID-19 Youth Action Squad, because she wants to use her voice to make her fellow lowans aware of how dangerous COVID is. Mira believes it is important to realize that we must protect each other by wearing masks, washing our hands, avoid touching our face and keep at least 6 feet away from others. Mira is also a member of the Iowa Youth Congress and is currently working on inclusive sex education (LGBTQ+) in Iowa schools and is hoping to see this bill passed in the 2021 legislative session.



## REMI SAIDI (HE/HIM)

Remi Saidi is a freshman at Hoover High School and lives in Urbandale. Remi wanted to be a member of the COVID-19 Youth Action Squad, because he wants to know other people's experiences during the pandemic and if the virus has impacted them like it has impacted him.